

# FY08 SOMERVILLE BUDGET HEARINGS

## Office of Sustainability & Environment

Peter Mills, Director



## 2. OSE – Mission Statement

The Department's Mission is to identify and implement cost-effective strategies to continually improve the environmental performance of city government.

OSE's objective is to make Somerville a model livable and sustainable city by reducing energy costs and environmental impacts of City operations, by adopting and promoting environmentally sensitive practices, and by advocating for a healthy and enjoyable environment for the citizens of Somerville.

### 3. OSE – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

In FY07, the Office of Sustainability & Environment was established as a new Department, resulting in an expansion of goals set by the Environmental Protection Office.

In this past year, the Department's *new* accomplishments include:

- Release of the City's first Environmental Strategic Plan
- Planning document sets forth policy objectives and details programmatic activities

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#### Initiative: Alternative Fuel Vehicles / Hybrids

Since its inception, OSE has held a number of discussions with DPW staff on the subject of hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles (AFV). As greater varieties of AFVs and hybrids penetrate the market, Somerville should lead by example by procuring AFV or hybrid vehicle technologies in every instance where it can be determined that the city's operational requirements can be met by alternative fuel or hybrid technology. Among the types of hybrid vehicles available to the city is the Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck, however at the present time, only non-commercial grade (i.e., ¾ ton) pickups are available. Heavier duty pickups are expected to become available by later in 2007. By automatically shutting down engine operation when the vehicle is stopped, these vehicles are designed to be compliant with the state's anti-idling laws. Additional benefits include onboard 110/120 VAC service suitable for powering pumps and hand power tools. Hybrid or all-electric vehicles are also considered to be promising applications in the areas of city inspectional services and parking enforcement. In the coming year, OSE plans to examine vehicle use by city departments to identify the most advantageous applications for alternative vehicles.

*Goal: Integrate assessment of options for procurement of AFV and hybrid vehicles in all vehicle procurement decisions beginning in FY2008. Assess vehicle use by city employees to identify the most promising uses for city owned AFV or hybrid vehicles.*

#### Case Study: Preferred Parking for Hybrid and AFV Vehicles

OSE is studying options to recognize environmentally preferable vehicle technologies (i.e., hybrids and alternative fuel vehicles), including the possibility of designating one or more parking places at municipal buildings and facilities as preferred parking for hybrid or AFV vehicles. These spots would likely be situated adjacent to handicapped access spots, offering hybrid/AFV preferred parking at City Hall, Somerville High School, and perhaps other locations, as determined to be appropriate. This program would be phased in according to an objective assessment of hybrid vehicle presence in Somerville and eventually phased out as hybrids achieve a greater degree of market penetration.

A second alternative to promote hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles within the city might be to waive parking meter fees for hybrid or AFV vehicle classes. This policy is potentially complicated by the need for parking enforcement personnel to be able to accurately identify exempt vehicles. Although this represents a challenge, parking stickers provided to Somerville residents could be modified to identify qualifying hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles, thereby extending the benefit to residents of the city, if not to visitors.

*Objective: Encourage and reward hybrid and AFV vehicle ownership amongst city employees and residents.*

## 4. OSE – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

Departmental Activities were focused in five program areas:

1. Energy Management Oversight
2. Brownfields & Real Estate Redevelopment
3. Delivery of Environmental Services
4. Ensuring Environmental Health & Safety
5. Public Education and Outreach



*City Hall*



*Curbside Collection*

## 5. OSE – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

### FY07 Accomplishments – Energy Management Oversight

- Development of ESCO Request for Proposals
  - Technical assistance (DCAM and DOER)
  - Proposal review
  - Vendor selection
  - Audit development
- Produced City-wide Energy Usage Baseline
  - Details energy usage by building and fuel type
  - Will be used to participate in EPA's Community Energy Challenge
  - Also useful for carbon emissions tracking
- Promotion of Renewable Energy Opportunities

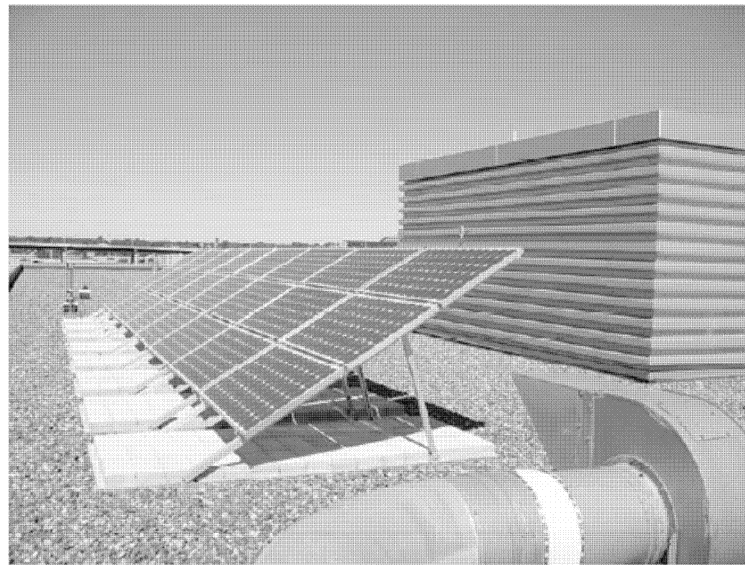
## 6. OSE – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

### FY07 Accomplishments – Energy Management Oversight

#### Renewable Energy Grant Opportunity (in process)

- \$114,000.00 Renewable Energy Equipment Grant through Massachusetts Technology Collaborative
- Candidate facility – Central Library
- Second phase notification expected July '07

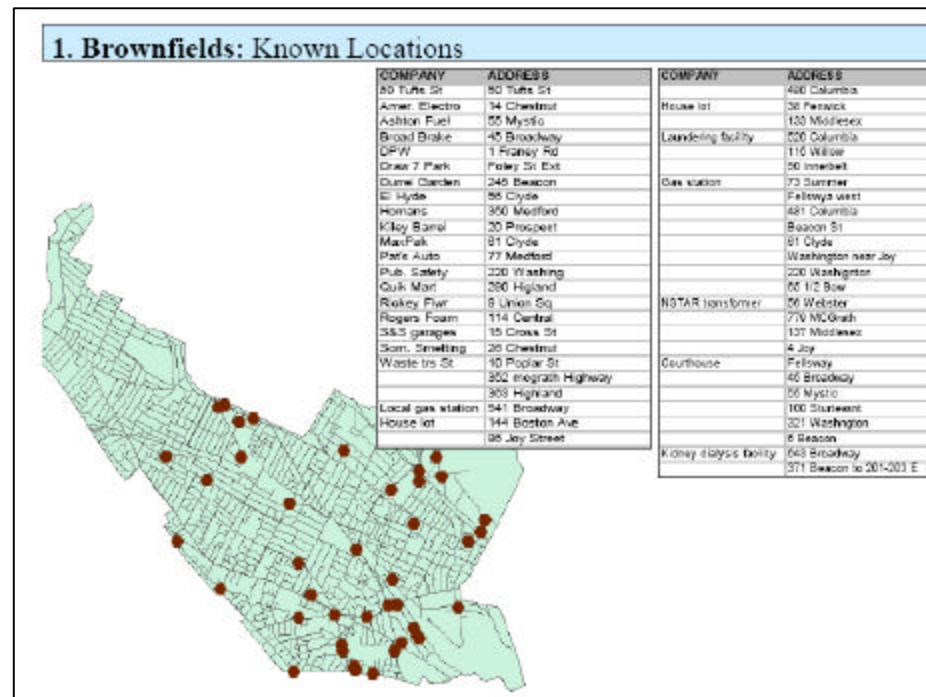
*Model Rooftop Photovoltaic Installation*



## 7. OSE – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

### FY07 Accomplishments – Brownfield Redevelopment

- OSE provides leadership of Brownfield Redevelopment Program
- Allows City to assess and clean up environmentally compromised real estate with Federal grants (EPA)



## 8. OSE – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

### FY07 Accomplishments - Brownfield Redevelopment (cont.)

- Assessment Sites & Future Uses
  - Central Street – Community Path Park and Extension
  - St. Polycarp – Mixed use, mixed income development
  - Kiley Barrel – Key Union Sq. redevelopment parcel
- Cleanup Site
  - 30 Allen St - Allen St. Community Gardens



## 9. OSE – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

### FY07 Accomplishments – Brownfield Redevelopment (cont.)

- Won \$200,000.00 grant this spring for cleanup of Central Street Community Path Park
- Cleanup work is expected to start Fall 2007

## 10. OSE – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

### FY07 Accomplishments – Environmental Services

- Formalized bottle and can recycling programs in City offices and schools and added bulk paper drop off facilities at DPW and City Hall Annex
- Supported residential composting with Earth Machines – Sales of over 100 units this fiscal year
- Won \$6,000.00 grant for recycling carts



Paper recycling, City Hall Annex

Earth Machine Composter



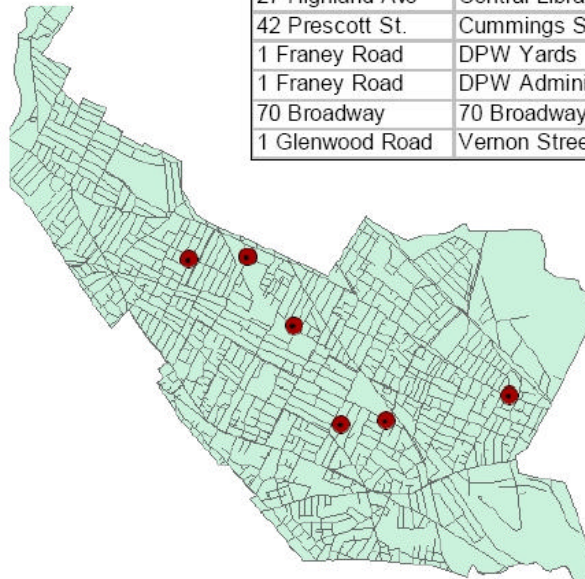
## 11. OSE – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

### FY07 Accomplishments – Environmental Health & Safety

- Management of UST cleanups at City facilities
- Management of Environmental Response Actions
- SHS Science Lab chemical storage cleanout

#### 1. Regulation: Underground Storage Tanks Locations

Location	Building
201 Willow Ave	Brown School
27 Highland Ave	Central Library
42 Prescott St.	Cummings School
1 Franey Road	DPW Yards
1 Franey Road	DPW Administration Building
70 Broadway	70 Broadway
1 Glenwood Road	Vernon Street Garage



## 12. OSE – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

### FY07 Accomplishments – Environmental Health & Safety

UST cleanups at City facilities currently in progress:

#### Abandoned Tanks:

- Brown School
- Cummings School
- Central Library

#### Active Tanks:

- DPW Administration

All of these sites will be closed out in 2007 (FY08)

## 13. OSE – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

### FY07 Accomplishments – Environmental Health & Safety

#### Environmental Response Actions managed:

- Recreation Department Building – Heating oil release
- Somerville High School – Heating oil release
- Capuano School – 50 Tufts St. – (PCE, volatile organic solvent)

#### SHS Lab Chemical Cleanout:

- Support School Department effort to reduce stockpile of expired chemicals held in storage
- Certified hazardous waste contractor will manage disposal

## 14. OSE – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

### FY07 Accomplishments – Education & Outreach

- Conducted air quality survey for particulate matter and presented findings at American Public Health Conference
  - Delivered educational programs on Mystic River and Alewife Brook to Somerville elementary schools
  - Developed GIS layers for recycling, solid waste, air quality
  - Attend Somerville Climate Action meetings
  - Environmental Programming (through SCAT)
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- Grants
  - \$10,000 - Mass Environmental Trust – water quality

## 15. OSE – FY08 Goals

In FY08, the Department will continue with its efforts to make Somerville a model livable, sustainable City:

- Drive down the costs and environmental impacts associated with energy consumption through Citywide energy management and conservation project (ESCO)
- Complete UST cleanups
- Switch to biodiesel at DPW fueling station
- Procure 100% renewable energy for City Hall (in budget)
- Complete Brownfields Site Assessments
- Support SHS Science Dept. chemical cleanout



## 16. OSE – FY08 Goals

### Street Tree Inventory

- This innovative project would train volunteer staff to identify species and assess street tree health across the city.
- Results would be a complete database identifying species diversity, health, distribution, and opportunities for new plantings.



A Tree-lined street in Somerville

## 17. OSE – FY08 Goals

OSE will also look to assist the City in preparing other program-related inventories:

- Hazardous materials (flammables, combustibles, etc.) on site / in storage at City facilities.
- Prioritize brownfields sites for next round of assessment grant monies (expected Winter 2007)

## 18. Increases/Decreases FY07 vs. FY08

This item will make City Hall electricity use entirely “green” by procuring “new renewable” resources, such as wind and solar, in an amount equal to annual consumption.

Account	Purpose	Increase/Decrease	Amount
52110 -- Electricity	Procure 100% renewable energy for City Hall	Increase	\$4,000.00



## 19. Increases/Decreases FY07 vs. FY08

This item will allow the City to procure professional & technical services related to the ESCO and to establish an on-call LSP for emergency environmental responses.

Account	Purpose	Increase/Decrease	Amount
	Procure Commissioning Agent Services	Increase	\$25,000.00
	Establish Licensed Site Professional "House Doctor"	Increase	\$5,000
53000 -- Prof Tech Services			\$30,000.00

Note: Cost of commissioning Agent Services are recouped in year one of ESCO through energy savings.

## 20. Increases/Decreases FY07 vs. FY08

### Commissioning Agent

- Provides technical expertise on building systems and performance contracting – a “buyer broker”
- Can save client many times actual cost of C.A. services
- Consistently identified as a “best practice”

### House Doctor LSP

- On call for emergency environmental situations
- Acts as City’s agent with DEP (Mass Contingency Plan)
- Avoids delayed response in time critical situations

*Note: Cost of commissioning Agent Services are recouped in year one of ESCO through energy savings.*

## 21. Increases/Decreases FY07 vs. FY08

These items provide for basic Departmental Operations and Maintenance and represent increases as OSE had no OM budget in FY 07.

Account	Purpose	Increase/Decrease	Amount
53420	Postage	Increase	\$250
54200	Office Supplies	Increase	\$1,500
54201	Office Equipment	Increase	\$1,000
54210	Printing & Stationery	Increase	\$100
54220	Computer Supplies	Increase	\$1,500
55870	Magazines News Subscriptions	Increase	\$209
57300	Dues Memberships (NALGEP)	Increase	\$225